

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, paragraph 2. The Examiner stated that the quoted current language was unclear, and suggested new language. The rejection is traversed. The quoted language has nothing to do with claim 8, and further the suggested new language is obviously less clear than the quoted language. Therefore, the Examiner is requested to withdraw this rejection, or repeat it more clearly in a new, non-final Office Action.

Claims 1, 9, 11 and 19 were rejected as anticipated by Ishihara et al. Claims 1 and 11 are the independent claims. Claims 2-8, 10, 12-18 and 20 were rejected over Ishihara et al. in view of Maruyama et al. and Hori.

The claim 1 includes the following features:

- 1) producing a slit light from an optical system having a light source; and
- 2) stopping said slit light asymmetrically in a slit direction and in a direction perpendicular thereto.

The Examiner alleges that the feature “2)” is taught by the reference Ishihara (US6288382) in col. 6, lines 5-40.

But, Ishihara in col 6, lines 1-4 teaches “Therefore, spherical-wave light emitted from each point in the slit aperture is refracted by the illuminating lens 3 into plane-wave light, which then passes through a beam splitter 4 and uniformly illuminates an upper microlens array 102.”

Further, Ishihara in col. 6, lines 12-19 says “The light that falls over the upper microlens array 102 is caused to converge by each microlens to form an image of the slit aperture 101 on the corresponding microlens of a lower microlens array 103 which is disposed so that its microlenses are coaxially positioned at the focal point of their corresponding microlenses of the upper microlens array 102. The detailed configuration of this part is shown in Figure 5.”

Therefore, there is no structure in Ishihara having a structure corresponding to feature “2)”.

More specifically, these microlens arrays 102 and 103 cannot stop (or block) the slit light asymmetrically, and cannot stop the light in a direction perpendicular to the slit direction.

Therefore, Ishihara clearly fails to teach the invention of claim 1. Claim 11 is allowable

for at least the same reasons. Therefore, the anticipation rejection of claims 1, 9, 11 and 19 should be withdrawn.

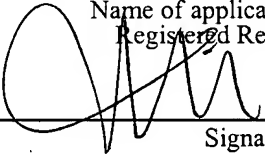
Maruyama et al. and Hori fail to supplement Ishihara. No combination of the three references suggests at least feature "2)" of the present invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of claims 1-20 is requested.

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